



## CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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TO: Senator Dante Bartolomeo and Representative Diana Urban, Co-Chairs  
Senator Martin Henri and Representative Whit Betts, Ranking Members  
Committee on Children

FROM: Richard H. Strauss, Executive Director, Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering

Date: February 10, 2015

Re: Written Testimony  
Proposed Bill No. 303: *An Act Concerning Children Exposed to Family Violence*

The Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) is conducting a study on behalf of the Public Health Committee entitled, *A Study on Addressing Family Violence in Connecticut: Strategies, Tactics and Policies*. CASE estimates that the study report, including findings and recommendations, will be complete by June 1, 2015. When the report is completed, CASE will ask the Public Health Committee to schedule a Study Briefing for committees of the General Assembly with interest in this project.

As the Committee on Children is a committee of interest for the study, the committee leadership has been included in notices of study committee meetings and will receive a notice of the Study Briefing, when scheduled. Additionally, CASE is available to discuss progress on the study at your convenience.

If the legislation is adopted, the study report should be useful for the task force's consideration and CASE will be available to provide a briefing on the results of the study, if requested. If the legislation does not pass this year, the study report will be available to inform the development of future legislation or initiatives to be undertaken by the state.

The study's overall objectives, and issues and areas of investigation, among others include:

1. Delineate Connecticut current state legal practices and service approaches that deal with family violence, including how the court system handles youthful and 1st time adult offenders for intrafamilial violence offenses. Compare Connecticut state practices with other model states.
2. Review the literature on family violence, including: International, National and Connecticut Statistics; effects of family violence on adult victims and children; risk factors; vulnerable populations; treatments for Intimate Partner Violence; and clinical implications and future directions.
3. Mine existing databases to delineate the characteristics of perpetrators and victims of family violence, and identify risk factors associated with recidivism and extreme forms of family violence (e.g., homicide).
4. Develop prevention strategies to be implemented as pilot demonstration project(s) for a potential Phase 2 of the CASE study targeting three aspects of prevention:
  - a. General prevention: education and other low cost population-based prevention including among others, education and training, public awareness, and outreach to key populations – youth and men
  - b. Intensive secondary prevention of at-risk populations in the context of identified risk factors
  - c. Rehabilitation/prevention of recurrence among adolescents and adults who have been violent. Once an individual has made a single violent act, the risk for another one is substantially increased (e.g., Hilton et al., 2004).

Submitted by:

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